

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejects:

- claims 1-4, 7-14 and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg et al. (Steinberg) in view newly-cited Tobita et al. (Tobita); and
- claims 5, 6, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinberg and Tobita in view of Ogawa et al. (Ogawa).

Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art references do not disclose, teach or suggest at least the claimed features of:

waiting for a program transmitting command from the external recording medium, receiving the program transmitting command from the external recording medium, transmitting a request-to send program command to the external recording medium.

in combination with other novel features recited in Applicant's independent claims 1, 2, 11 and 12. One of the non-limiting, exemplary benefits which may be achieved by the above-noted feature is that the request-to-send program command can be transmitted to the external recording medium depending on the state of the digital camera, such as when the digital camera is in a state for receiving the program. None of the cited prior art references recognize such a feature as being beneficial, let alone teach or suggest means for implementing this feature.

Therefore, Applicant's independent claims 1, 2, 11 and 12, as well as the dependent claims 3-10 and 13-24 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims) are patentable over the prior art for at least these reasons.

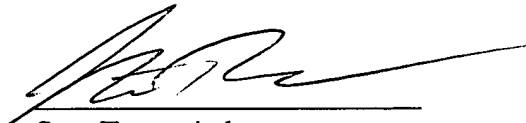
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln No. 09/414,507

Atty Dkt No. Q56144

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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